

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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STILWELL SEEKS WARRICK COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN AUG. 9 INDOT HEARING

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville) today encouraged local residents to take part in August 9 public hearings in Vincennes in order to register their concerns about potential delays in completion of road projects critical to the future of Warrick County.

The hearings -- set for 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. August 9 in the Vincennes District office of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), located at 3650 S. U.S. 41 – are designed to gain public input on a 10-year plan formulated by INDOT and the Daniels Administration.

"Many state and local officials agree that this new plan places a higher priority on partisan politics than local need, so there is a very great risk that projects important to Warrick County may be delayed for many years or even stopped for good," Stilwell said.

"These projects are vital to local growth, and it is upsetting to realize that these improvements might never see the light of day, because they could provide great benefits to Warrick County and improve public safety throughout the area," he continued.

At particular risk are two projects with potential long-term impact for Warrick County's future:

- Completion of construction on an upgrade of State Road 62 from Chandler to Boonville. Four miles of that road have been improved to four lanes, with another 10 miles remaining.

- Construction of the so-called Boonville Connector, a bypass around the community that will help reduce traffic congestion in an area that sees an average of 200 coal-carrying trucks travel through it every hour.

"I have made it clear to INDOT that all area projects are crucial to the people of Warrick County, and delaying these for more than ten years will harm our county greatly," Stilwell said. "The force of our arguments will be stronger if more residents speak out on behalf of these projects."

Stilwell said people should send their comments to Rickie Clark, Public Hearings Officer, Room 901, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204. You also can call Clark at 317-232-6601, or e-mail him at rclark@indot.state.in.us.

"I also would encourage people to come to the meeting in Vincennes on August 9, and register their feelings in person," he noted. "It is more difficult for bureaucrats to ignore the concerns of the people they are supposed to serve when the public shows up to express their thoughts in person. We do not want to turn back many years of progress, and our case is improved when it is supported by those people who benefit from the projects.

"Improving our state's roads and bridges should be determined by the importance of those projects in enhancing an area's economic and residential growth, not political influence," Stilwell concluded.

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H74